

# MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER

## DEFINITION

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index offenses, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of offenses</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000 inhabitants</i>
1999	15,522	5.7
2000	15,517	5.5
Percent change	Less than 0.1 percent	

The estimated number of persons murdered in the United States in 2000 was 15,517, virtually no change from the 1999 estimate. The national estimate for 2000 fell 21.0 percent below the 1996 estimate and 37.2 percent below that of 1991. (See Table 1.)

Collectively, the Nation's cities registered a 0.7-percent increase in murder as compared to 1999 figures. The greatest rise, 11.7 percent, was recorded by cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants. Collectively, cities with populations of 250,000 or more had a decline of 0.3 percent. Among the Nation's counties, murder volumes declined 3.8 percent in suburban counties and 3.5 percent in rural counties.

By region, 44.0 percent of murders occurred in the South, the country's most populous region. Murders in the Midwest comprised 21.2 percent of the total; the West, 21.0 percent; and the Northeast, 13.9 percent. Two of the Nation's four regions showed increases in the number of murders when 2000 data are compared to 1999. The South and the Northeast each recorded increases of 2.4 percent, and the West and the Midwest showed decreases of 3.4 and 2.9 percent, respectively. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

Considering the volume of monthly occurrence for 2000, murder was committed most frequently in July and least often in February. (See Table 2.3.)

Table 2.3

<b>Murder by Month</b>					
Percent distribution, 1996-2000					
Month	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
January	8.7	8.7	9.1	8.8	8.6
February	7.8	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0
March	7.5	8.5	8.3	7.6	7.5
April	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.8
May	8.3	7.9	8.4	8.3	8.4
June	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.1	8.7
July	8.8	9.0	8.7	9.1	9.5
August	9.1	8.7	9.2	9.1	9.4
September	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.7	8.3
October	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.7
November	8.0	8.2	7.6	8.2	7.6
December	8.9	8.6	8.8	8.8	8.7

## Rate

The national murder rate for 2000, down 3.1 percent from the 1999 rate, was the lowest since 1965, 5.5 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. Trends for 5 and 10 years show that the 2000 rate was 25.6 percent lower than in 1996 and 43.7 percent lower than in 1991.

Among the Nation's regions, the South had a rate of 6.8 victims per 100,000 inhabitants; both the West and the Midwest, 5.1 per 100,000; and the Northeast, 4.0 per 100,000. Murder rates declined in all four of the geographic areas in comparison to 1999 figures. The West registered a decrease of 6.5 percent; the Midwest, 4.7 percent; the Northeast, 1.6 percent; and the South, 1.5 percent. (See Table 4.)

Collectively, metropolitan areas throughout the country had a rate of 5.9 murders per 100,000 inhabitants for 2000. Both rural counties and cities outside metropolitan areas reported murder rates of 3.8 per 100,000 inhabitants.

## Nature

In 2000, contributing agencies submitted supplemental homicide data for 12,943 of the estimated 15,517 murders. These supplemental data provide the age, sex, and race of both victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationships of the victims to the offenders; and the circumstances surrounding the murders.

Table 2.4

Race of victim	Total	Sex of victim		
		Male	Female	Unknown
Total white victims	6,263	4,453	1,809	1
Total black victims	6,193	5,049	1,144	-
Total other race victims	319	230	89	-
Total unknown race	168	108	34	26
Total victims <sup>1</sup>	12,943	9,840	3,076	27

<sup>1</sup> Total number of murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

According to 2000 supplemental homicide data, males comprised 76.0 percent of the murder victim total. By age, the greatest percentage of victims, 89.7 percent, were persons aged 18 or older. Of all victims, 45.1 percent were 20 to 34 years old. Of the victims for whom race was known, 49.0 percent were white, 48.5 percent were black, and persons of others races accounted for the remaining 2.5 percent.

Regarding offender data, supplemental homicide figures were available for 14,697 murder offenders in 2000 with males accounting for 90.2 percent of those for whom gender was known. Of the murder offenders for whom age was known, 91.3 percent were persons aged 18 or older. Of all offenders, 69.1 percent were persons aged 17 through 34. Blacks accounted for 51.4 percent of those offenders for whom race was known, whites for 46.1 percent, and persons of other races for the remainder.

Based on supplemental homicide data, the racial correlation of murder victims to murder offenders is usually intraracial. Figures based on one victim/one offender incidents in 2000 indicate that 93.7 percent of black murder victims were killed by black offenders, and 86.2 percent of white murder victims were slain by white offenders.

Supplemental homicide data reveal that males were most often murdered by males in 2000. Both victim and offender were male in 88.5 percent of single-victim/single-offender incidents. In addition, the data show that 90.8 percent of female victims were murdered by males.

FIGURE 2.6

# MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER

PERCENT CHANGE  
from 1996

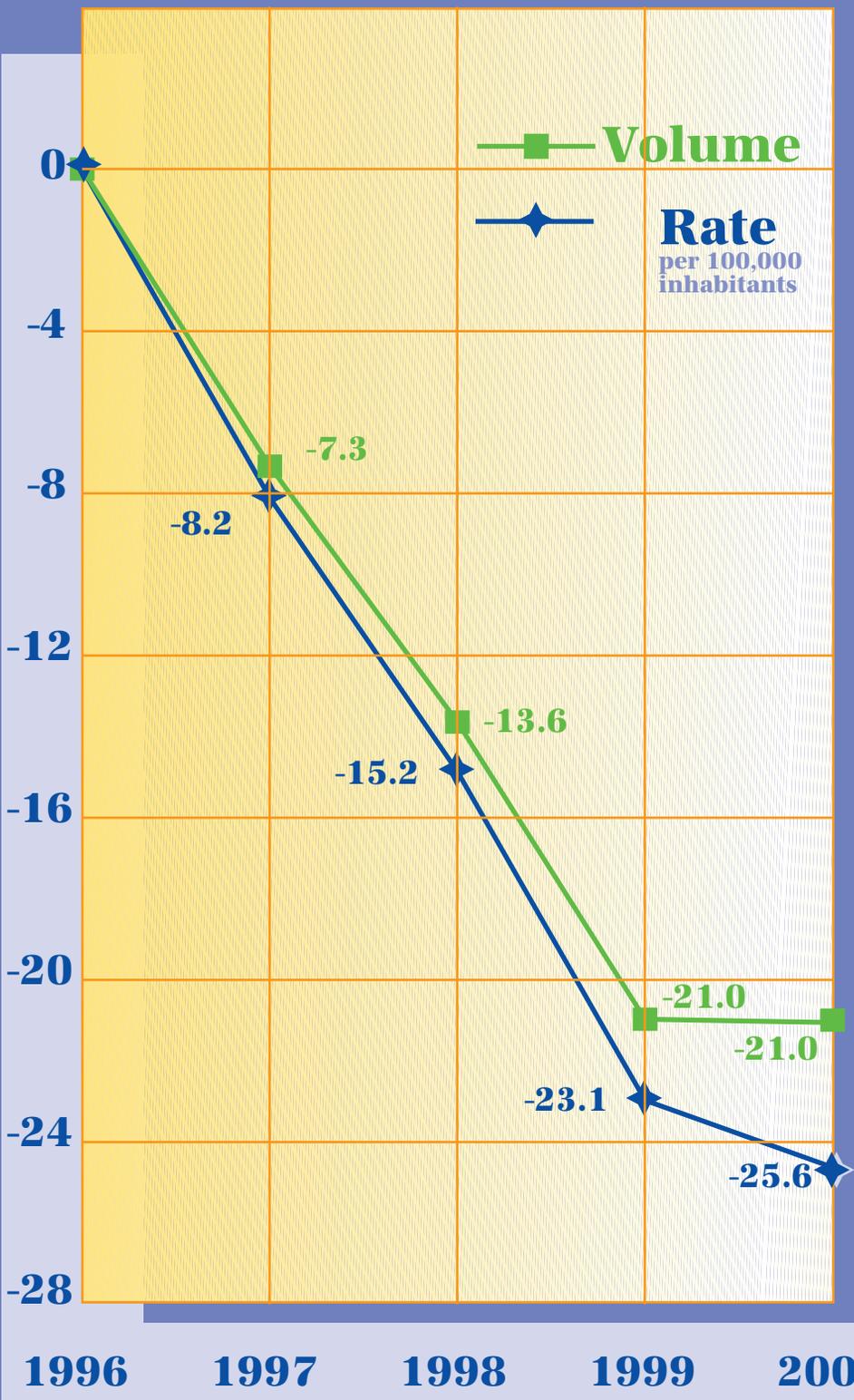


Table 2.5

**Murder Victims**  
 by Age, Sex, and Race, 2000

Age	Total	Sex			Race			
		Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown
Total	12,943	9,840	3,076	27	6,263	6,193	319	168
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>	100.0	76.0	23.8	0.2	48.4	47.8	2.5	1.3
Under 18 <sup>2</sup>	1,300	879	420	1	667	589	28	16
Under 22 <sup>2</sup>	3,247	2,523	723	1	1,470	1,678	69	30
18 and over <sup>2</sup>	11,380	8,791	2,587	2	5,484	5,513	288	95
Infant (under 1)	217	121	95	1	121	86	3	7
1 to 4	279	155	124	–	148	122	7	2
5 to 8	84	44	40	–	51	30	2	1
9 to 12	61	34	27	–	38	22	1	–
13 to 16	367	278	89	–	174	183	7	3
17 to 19	1,192	1,005	187	–	532	620	29	11
20 to 24	2,388	2,041	347	–	929	1,403	43	13
25 to 29	1,845	1,528	317	–	732	1,047	51	15
30 to 34	1,486	1,150	335	1	685	759	35	7
35 to 39	1,249	883	366	–	619	583	30	17
40 to 44	1,140	815	325	–	628	469	32	11
45 to 49	757	540	217	–	425	300	26	6
50 to 54	486	367	119	–	296	169	16	5
55 to 59	338	251	87	–	210	112	11	5
60 to 64	217	154	63	–	147	58	8	4
65 to 69	153	85	68	–	97	49	5	2
70 to 74	156	96	60	–	114	39	3	–
75 and over	265	123	141	1	205	51	7	2
Unknown	263	170	69	24	112	91	3	57

<sup>1</sup> Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to total.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include unknown ages.

Table 2.6

**Murder Offenders**  
 by Age, Sex, and Race, 2000

Age	Total	Sex			Race			
		Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown
Total	14,697	9,562	1,039	4,096	4,809	5,361	270	4,257
Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>	100.0	65.1	7.1	27.9	32.7	36.5	1.8	29.0
Under 18 <sup>2</sup>	832	751	81	–	345	444	35	8
Under 22 <sup>2</sup>	3,378	3,134	242	2	1,382	1,856	107	33
18 and over <sup>2</sup>	8,785	7,861	919	5	4,261	4,232	229	63
Infant (under 1)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1 to 4	1	–	1	–	–	1	–	–
5 to 8	2	1	1	–	–	2	–	–
9 to 12	13	12	1	–	9	3	–	1
13 to 16	415	370	45	–	171	226	16	2
17 to 19	1,651	1,540	109	2	651	922	61	17
20 to 24	2,571	2,397	174	–	1,064	1,427	58	22
25 to 29	1,481	1,342	139	–	647	796	30	8
30 to 34	947	811	136	–	510	408	26	3
35 to 39	792	664	127	1	462	294	31	5
40 to 44	629	507	122	–	359	253	11	6
45 to 49	426	367	58	1	260	152	13	1
50 to 54	270	232	37	1	168	92	6	4
55 to 59	140	114	26	–	101	31	7	1
60 to 64	93	86	7	–	68	24	–	1
65 to 69	59	54	5	–	37	22	–	–
70 to 74	42	37	5	–	31	9	2	–
75 and over	85	77	8	–	68	14	3	–
Unknown	5,080	951	38	4,091	203	685	6	4,186

<sup>1</sup> Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to total.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include unknown ages.

Available weapon data indicate that 65.6 percent of murder weapons in 2000 were firearms, making them the most frequently used weapons in the commission of murder. By firearm type, handguns accounted for 51.7 percent of the murder total; shotguns, 3.6 percent; rifles, 3.1 percent; and other or unknown types of firearms, another 7.3 percent. Knives or cutting instruments were employed in 13.5 percent of murders; personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) in 7.0 percent; blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.) in 4.7 percent; and other dangerous weapons (poison, explosives, etc.) in the remainder. (See Table 2.10.) Table 20 furnishes a state-by-state breakdown of weapons used in connection with murder.

Supplemental homicide data for relationships between victims and offenders in 2000 indicate that 44.3 percent of all murder victims knew their offenders: 30.9 percent of victims were acquainted with their assailants and 13.4 percent were related to them. Husbands or boyfriends murdered 33.0 percent of female victims, and wives or girlfriends killed 3.2 percent of male victims. Thirteen percent of all murder victims were slain by strangers. Relationships were not known for 42.6 percent of the murders. (See Table 2.12.)

When examining circumstance data, arguments were the circumstance attributed to 29.4 percent of the murders in 2000. Felonious activities such as robbery, arson, etc., occurred in conjunction with 16.7 percent, and 0.5 percent of homicides were suspected to have been the result of a felonious activity. Table 2.14 examines murder circumstances for the past 5 years, 1996-2000.

Table 2.7

**Murder Victim/Offender Relationship**  
by Age, 2000  
[Single Victim/Single Offender]

Age of victim	Total	Age of offender		
		Under 18	18 and over	Unknown
Total	6,514	374	5,662	478
Under 18	737	117	589	31
18 and over	5,686	256	5,002	428
Unknown	91	1	71	19

**Law Enforcement Response**

Typically, murder is cleared at a higher rate than any other Crime Index offense. In 2000, law enforcement agencies nationwide recorded a 63.1 percent clearance rate for the crime. The highest clearance rate, 77.6 percent, was reported by cities with populations under 10,000. Cities with populations of 250,000 and over cleared 56.1 percent, and cities collectively cleared 61.0 percent. Law enforcement agencies in the Nation's rural counties cleared 76.8 percent of reported murders, and in suburban counties, 66.9 percent. (See Table 25.)

Regionally, the Northeastern States registered the highest murder clearance rate at 72.8 percent. The Southern States recorded a clearance rate of 65.0 percent. The Midwestern and Western States followed with clearance rates of 59.2 percent and 57.6 percent, respectively.

Table 2.8

**Murder Victim/Offender Relationship**  
by Race and Sex, 2000  
[Single Victim/Single Offender]

Race of victim	Total	Race of offender				Sex of offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
White victims	3,352	2,860	417	40	35	2,985	332	35
Black victims	2,927	178	2,723	5	21	2,565	341	21
Other race victims	169	43	22	103	1	150	18	1
Unknown race	66	30	19	1	16	48	2	16

Sex of victim	Total	Race of offender				Sex of offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
Male victims	4,542	2,004	2,397	100	41	3,983	518	41
Female victims	1,906	1,077	765	48	16	1,717	173	16
Unknown sex	66	30	19	1	16	48	2	16

Table 2.9

**Murder, Types of Weapons Used**  
 Percent distribution by region, 2000

Region	Total all weapons <sup>1</sup>	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Unknown or other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) <sup>2</sup>
Total	100.0	65.6	13.5	14.0	7.0
Northeastern States	100.0	62.2	17.0	12.8	8.0
Midwestern States	100.0	65.3	10.9	16.1	7.7
Southern States	100.0	66.5	12.8	14.3	6.4
Western States	100.0	66.7	14.4	12.5	6.5

<sup>1</sup> Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to total.

<sup>2</sup> Pushed is included in personal weapons.

Table 2.10

**Murder Victims**  
 by Weapon, 1996-2000

Weapons	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	16,967	15,837	14,276	13,011	12,943
Total firearms:	11,453	10,729	9,257	8,480	8,493
Handguns	9,266	8,441	7,430	6,658	6,686
Rifles	561	638	548	400	396
Shotguns	685	643	633	531	468
Other guns	20	35	16	92	51
Firearms, type not stated	921	972	630	799	892
Knives or cutting instruments	2,324	2,055	1,899	1,712	1,743
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	792	724	755	756	604
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) <sup>1</sup>	1,037	1,010	964	885	900
Poison	8	6	6	11	8
Explosives	15	8	10	-	9
Fire	170	140	132	133	128
Narcotics	33	37	35	26	20
Drowning	24	34	28	28	15
Strangulation	248	224	213	190	166
Asphyxiation	92	88	101	106	89
Other weapons or weapons not stated	771	782	876	684	768

<sup>1</sup> Pushed is included in personal weapons.

Table 2.11

**Murder Victims by Age**  
 by Weapon, 2000

Age	Total	Weapons										
		Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) <sup>1</sup>	Poison	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other weapon or weapon not stated <sup>2</sup>
Total	12,943	8,493	1,743	604	900	8	9	128	20	166	89	783
Percent distribution <sup>3</sup>	100.0	65.6	13.5	4.7	7.0	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	1.3	0.7	6.0
Under 18 <sup>4</sup>	1,300	616	103	63	300	1	4	34	5	22	32	120
Under 22 <sup>4</sup>	3,247	2,163	308	98	344	1	4	45	7	43	37	197
18 and over <sup>4</sup>	11,380	7,750	1,611	527	575	7	4	87	15	141	56	607
Infant (under 1)	217	12	9	16	117	1	1	-	3	3	16	39
1 to 4	279	26	11	33	139	-	2	13	-	5	10	40
5 to 8	84	30	9	2	15	-	-	11	1	1	2	13
9 to 12	61	30	11	3	6	-	-	1	-	3	2	5
13 to 16	367	286	30	7	14	-	-	6	-	10	2	12
17 to 19	1,192	954	122	18	31	-	1	9	2	6	2	47
20 to 24	2,388	1,906	251	42	58	1	-	12	2	23	6	87
25 to 29	1,845	1,458	199	35	44	1	-	7	1	14	6	80
30 to 34	1,486	1,051	204	40	73	1	2	10	1	18	4	82
35 to 39	1,249	791	225	50	77	-	2	13	1	16	10	64
40 to 44	1,140	645	219	75	87	1	-	12	4	22	6	69
45 to 49	757	427	117	66	62	2	-	9	2	10	6	56
50 to 54	486	267	85	44	42	1	-	5	-	9	1	32
55 to 59	338	179	65	38	23	-	-	5	-	6	2	20
60 to 64	217	109	42	27	16	-	-	3	1	3	1	15
65 to 69	153	68	29	23	11	-	-	-	2	3	2	15
70 to 74	156	55	30	31	21	-	-	-	-	1	2	16
75 and over	265	72	56	40	39	-	-	5	-	10	8	35
Unknown	263	127	29	14	25	-	1	7	-	3	1	56

<sup>1</sup> Pushed is included in personal weapons.

<sup>2</sup> Includes drowning.

<sup>3</sup> Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to total.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include unknown ages.

Table 2.12

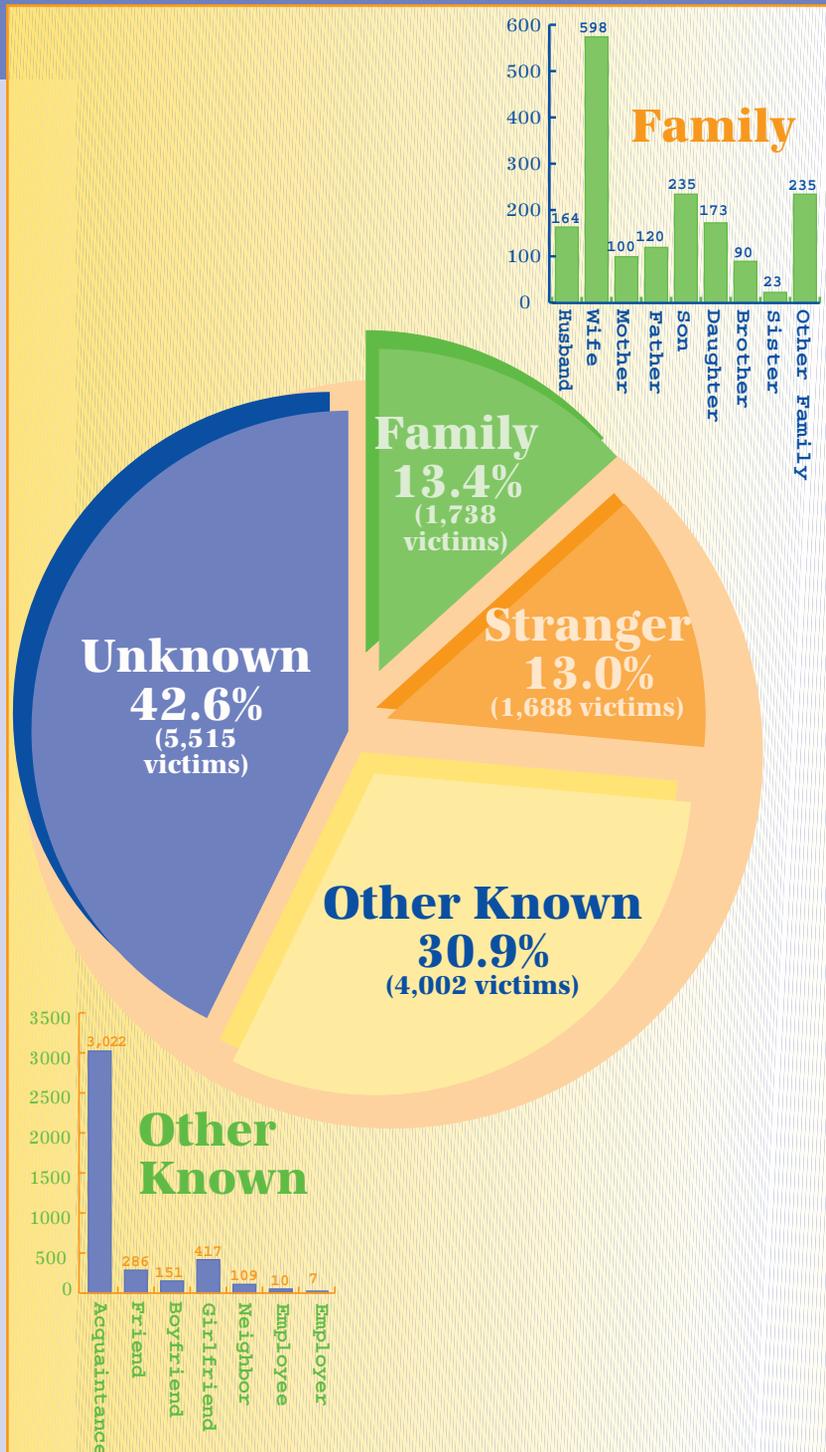
**Murder Circumstances  
by Relationship<sup>1</sup>, 2000**

Circumstances	Total	Husband	Wife	Mother	Father	Son	Daughter	Brother	Sister	Other family	Acquaintance	Friend	Boyfriend	Girlfriend	Neighbor	Employee	Employer	Stranger	Unknown
Total <sup>2</sup>	12,943	164	598	100	120	235	173	90	23	235	3,022	286	151	417	109	10	7	1,688	5,515
Felony type total:	2,157	4	7	9	7	20	30	3	6	29	552	30	2	21	17	1	2	551	866
Rape	58	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	1	12	1	–	3	–	–	–	14	24
Robbery	1,048	–	–	–	3	–	1	2	3	9	195	11	1	4	7	1	–	376	435
Burglary	73	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	16	1	–	4	2	–	–	15	31
Larceny-theft	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	7	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	9
Motor vehicle theft	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	1	13	5
Arson	81	1	2	4	2	3	3	–	2	–	21	1	–	1	1	–	–	2	38
Prostitution and commercialized vice	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
Other sex offenses	10	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2
Narcotic drug laws	572	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	5	230	12	–	1	3	–	–	69	249
Gambling	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–
Other - not specified	254	3	4	3	1	17	24	–	–	8	60	3	1	5	4	–	1	47	73
Suspected felony type	60	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	50
Other than felony type total:	6,696	145	538	75	98	197	123	75	14	183	2,076	221	135	332	77	9	5	868	1,525
Romantic triangle	122	1	10	–	1	2	–	1	–	1	74	5	2	10	1	1	–	8	5
Child killed by babysitter	30	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	24	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	181	–	3	2	2	–	–	1	–	4	79	26	1	2	1	–	–	35	25
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	97	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	6	49	3	–	3	–	–	–	10	21
Argument over money or property	206	1	3	5	4	3	–	1	–	12	111	5	1	1	7	1	–	19	32
Other arguments	3,475	117	364	38	59	34	25	63	8	103	1,129	137	114	249	48	4	4	449	530
Gangland killings	63	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	27
Juvenile gang killings	650	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	187	3	–	–	–	–	–	129	331
Institutional killings	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
Sniper attack	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	6
Other - not specified	1,854	25	157	28	31	157	98	9	6	54	392	42	17	67	19	2	1	204	545
Unknown	4,030	15	53	16	15	18	20	12	3	23	386	35	14	64	14	–	–	268	3,074

<sup>1</sup>Relationship is that of victim to offender.<sup>2</sup>Total murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

# FIGURE 2.7 MURDER BY RELATIONSHIP<sup>1</sup>

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION<sup>2</sup>  
VOLUME BY KNOWN RELATIONSHIP



<sup>1</sup>Relationship is that of victim to offender.

<sup>2</sup>Due to rounding, the percentages do not add to 100.0.

Figures are based on 12,943 murder victims for whom Supplementary Homicide Report data were received.

Table 2.13

**Murder Circumstances**  
 by Weapon, 2000

Circumstances	Total murder victims	Total firearms	Hand-guns	Rifles	Shot-guns	Other guns or type not stated	Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	Poison	Pushed or thrown out window	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Drowning	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other
Total <sup>1</sup>	12,943	8,493	6,686	396	468	943	1,743	604	892	8	8	9	128	20	15	166	89	768
Felony type total:	2,157	1,478	1,246	57	55	120	205	116	127	–	–	2	85	6	2	33	21	82
Rape	58	5	3	–	–	2	16	6	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	1	5
Robbery	1,048	771	663	21	25	62	112	64	43	–	–	1	1	–	–	11	7	38
Burglary	73	42	29	3	6	4	13	8	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	2	4
Larceny-theft	23	14	12	–	–	2	4	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Motor vehicle theft	22	11	9	1	–	1	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	4
Arson	81	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	70	–	–	–	2	4
Prostitution and commercialized vice	5	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–
Other sex offenses	10	1	1	–	–	–	2	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Narcotic drug laws	572	503	432	18	16	37	27	9	9	–	–	1	–	5	1	5	3	9
Gambling	11	11	10	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other - not specified	254	119	86	14	7	12	24	22	48	–	–	–	13	1	1	5	6	15
Suspected felony type	60	46	34	3	1	8	6	1	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	2
Other than felony type total:	6,696	4,239	3,373	258	311	297	1,116	285	584	7	6	3	24	11	11	75	42	293
Romantic triangle	122	85	67	4	9	5	27	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	4
Child killed by babysitter	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	23	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	–
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	181	93	76	10	5	2	57	6	15	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	7
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	97	58	44	3	7	4	20	4	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	5
Argument over money or property	206	136	95	12	13	16	31	14	17	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	4
Other arguments	3,475	2,124	1,677	117	171	159	780	162	241	1	4	–	9	3	–	37	10	104
Gangland killings	63	58	47	5	3	3	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Juvenile gang killings	650	613	535	38	18	22	20	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	12
Institutional killings	10	–	–	–	–	–	4	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Sniper attack	8	8	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other - not specified	1,854	1,064	825	68	85	86	175	88	274	4	1	2	14	7	10	31	27	157
Unknown	4,030	2,730	2,033	78	101	518	416	202	179	1	2	4	18	3	2	56	26	391

<sup>1</sup> Total murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

Table 2.14

**Murder Circumstances, 1996-2000**

Circumstances	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total <sup>1</sup>	16,967	15,837	14,276	13,011	12,943
Felony type total:	3,186	2,968	2,514	2,215	2,157
Rape	70	67	62	47	58
Robbery	1,618	1,509	1,244	1,057	1,048
Burglary	123	101	92	81	73
Larceny-theft	24	16	17	14	23
Motor vehicle theft	23	18	17	12	22
Arson	105	92	83	66	81
Prostitution and commercialized vice	8	7	15	8	5
Other sex offenses	27	23	20	19	10
Narcotic drug laws	843	802	682	581	572
Gambling	12	19	12	17	11
Other - not specified	333	314	270	313	254
Suspected felony type	74	153	104	65	60
Other than felony type total:	8,597	7,666	7,232	6,880	6,696
Romantic triangle	189	176	187	137	122
Child killed by babysitter	29	24	23	34	30
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	256	239	213	203	181
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	195	106	117	127	97
Argument over money or property	328	287	241	213	206
Other arguments	4,719	4,476	4,129	3,471	3,475
Gangland killings	84	86	73	122	63
Juvenile gang killings	858	783	628	580	650
Institutional killings	13	19	15	13	10
Sniper attack	8	8	16	5	8
Other - not specified	1,918	1,462	1,590	1,975	1,854
Unknown	5,110	5,050	4,426	3,851	4,030

<sup>1</sup> Total number of murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

Table 2.15

**Murder Circumstances by Victim's Sex, 2000**

Circumstances	Total murder victims <sup>1</sup>	Male	Female	Unknown
Total <sup>1</sup>	12,943	9,840	3,076	27
Felony type total:	2,157	1,716	439	2
Rape	58	2	56	–
Robbery	1,048	908	140	–
Burglary	73	49	24	–
Larceny-theft	23	15	8	–
Motor vehicle theft	22	16	6	–
Arson	81	27	53	1
Prostitution and commercialized vice	5	–	5	–
Other sex offenses	10	2	8	–
Narcotic drug laws	572	522	50	–
Gambling	11	11	–	–
Other - not specified	254	164	89	1
Suspected felony type	60	47	13	–
Other than felony type total:	6,696	4,914	1,779	3
Romantic triangle	122	92	30	–
Child killed by babysitter	30	19	11	–
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	181	163	18	–
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	97	77	20	–
Argument over money or property	206	172	34	–
Other arguments	3,475	2,498	977	–
Gangland killings	63	60	3	–
Juvenile gang killings	650	620	29	1
Institutional killings	10	10	–	–
Sniper attack	8	7	1	–
Other - not specified	1,854	1,196	656	2
Unknown	4,030	3,163	845	22

<sup>1</sup> Total number of murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

Measured by clearances, the proportion of juvenile involvement in criminal activity was lower for murder than for any other Index crime in 2000. Persons under 18 years of age were responsible for 5.3 percent of the willful killings cleared nationally. By population groupings, 6.0 percent of murder clearances in rural counties involved juveniles; 5.4 percent in the Nation's cities collectively; and 4.6 percent in suburban counties.

Nationally, law enforcement agencies made an estimated 13,227 arrests for murder in 2000. Of those arrested, 51.3 percent were under 25 years of age, and the 18- to 24-year-old age group accounted for 42.0 percent of the murder arrest total. (See Table 38.)

By gender, 89.4 percent of those arrested for murder were males, and 10.6 percent were female. Blacks accounted for 48.8 percent of the total; whites, 48.7 percent; and other races, the remainder.

In 2000, total arrests for murder decreased 7.5 percent when compared to the 1999 arrest figures. Arrests of persons aged 18 and over decreased by 6.9 percent, and arrests of those younger than 18 (juveniles) fell by 13.4 percent. During the same time period, murder arrests of males were down 7.3 percent, and arrests of females decreased 9.1 percent. Regarding persons under age 18, male juvenile arrests dropped 15.5 percent in 2000, but female juvenile arrests increased 9.0 percent.

Five- and 10-year trends show the 2000 murder arrest total is 24.2 percent below the 1996 figure and 41.3 percent below the 1991 figure.

### Justifiable Homicide

Based on the findings of law enforcement investigation, some willful killings are classified as justifiable or excusable. For UCR purposes, justifiable homicide is defined as, and limited to, the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, or the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen. These offenses are tabulated independently and are not included in murder counts.

Supplemental data were provided by contributing agencies for 460 justifiable homicides in 2000. According to those data, 297 felons were justifiably slain by law

enforcement officers, and 163 felons were justifiably killed by private citizens. Firearms were used in all of the justifiable homicides involving law enforcement, 89.2 percent of which specifically involved a handgun. Of the justifiable homicides by private citizens, 84.0 percent involved firearms; 89.1 percent of these involved handguns. Justifiable homicides by private citizens also involved knives or cutting instruments, 9.2 percent; personal weapons, 1.8 percent; and other weapons, 4.9 percent. (See Tables 2.16 and 2.17.)

Table 2.16

#### Justifiable Homicide

by Weapon, Law Enforcement,<sup>1</sup> 1996-2000

Year	Total	Total fire-arms	Hand-guns	Rifles	Shot-guns	Fire-arms, type not stated	Knives or cutting instruments	Other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons
1996	357	354	326	10	10	8	-	1	2
1997	366	363	315	14	20	14	-	1	2
1998	369	367	322	15	18	12	-	-	2
1999	308	305	274	11	15	5	-	1	2
2000	297	297	265	13	12	7	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> The killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty.

Table 2.17

#### Justifiable Homicide

by Weapon, Private Citizen,<sup>1</sup> 1996-2000

Year	Total	Total fire-arms	Hand-guns	Rifles	Shot-guns	Fire-arms, type not stated	Knives or cutting instruments	Other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons
1996	261	222	184	12	18	8	28	7	4
1997	280	238	197	16	14	11	28	6	8
1998	196	170	150	6	14	-	17	5	4
1999	192	158	137	5	10	6	18	9	7
2000	163	137	122	4	7	4	15	8	3

<sup>1</sup> The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.